

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 01059 250530Z
ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-02 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 IO-13 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /105 W
-----128785 250538Z /14/20

R 181604Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4332
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY MEXICO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 01059

USEEC

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y TO DELETE SECTION

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, PINT
SUBJ: WFTU AND WCL EXCHANGE CRITICISMS

REF: BRUSSELS 789 (NOTAL)

1. AFTER A SEVEN-YEAR FLIRTATION IN WHICH THEY KEPT THEIR
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 01059 250530Z

DIFFERENCES FAIRLY QUIET, THE CHRISTIAN-ROOTED WORLD
CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (WCL) AND THE COMMUNIST WORLD
FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (WFTU) ARE NOW QUARRELING
IN PUBLIC. THEY HAVE NOT BROKEN OFF RELATIONS, BUT THINGS
CAN HARDLY REMAIN THE SAME NOW THAT THE WFTU HAS
ANNOUNCED IN NINE LANGUAGES THAT THE WCL IS "IMPOTENT."

2. THE ARGUMENT HAS CENTERED LARGELY AROUND THE OCTOBER 1977 WCL CONGRESS, TO WHICH THE WFTU SENT FRATERNAL DELEGATES, AND THE APRIL 1978 WFTU CONGRESS IN PRAGUE, WHICH THE WFTU WOULD LIKE THE WCL TO ATTEND.

3. AN ARTICLE IN THE DECEMBER ISSUE OF THE WFTU JOURNAL, "WORLD TRADE UNION MOVEMENT" (PUBLISHED IN NINE LANGUAGES), ANALYZED THE WCL CONGRESS IN PATRONIZING AND NEGATIVE TERMS. THE DIVERGENCE OF VIEWS IN THE WCL--HAILED AS A VIRTUE BY WCL GENERAL SECRETARY JAN KULAKOWSKI IN A REPORT TO THE OCTOBER CONGRESS--MIGHT REALLY BE IMPOTENCE, THE ARTICLE SAID, AND WENT ON TO CHARACTERIZE THE WCL CONGRESS DISCUSSIONS AS THE "LATEST IMPOTENCY OF THE WCL TO DO SOMETHING."

4. IN A SPECIAL INTERVIEW IN THE SAME ISSUE KULAKOWSKI, ASKED ABOUT WHETHER THE WCL WOULD ATTEND THE WFTU CONGRESS, SAID HE WASN'T SURE, PARTLY BECAUSE THE CONGRESS WAS SCHEDULED "IN THAT PLACE AND IN THAT YEAR" (I.E., IN PRAGUE ON THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOVIET INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA). HE ALSO ACCUSED THE WFTU OF BEING "TOO CLOSELY TIED TO A BLOC" AND BEING UNABLE TO FACE UP TO "THE REALITIES OF THE WORKING CLASS AND THE UNIONS IN THE EASTERN EUROPE COUNTRIES."

5. THE KULAKOWSKI INTERVIEW, HEADLINED AS "JAN KULAKOWSKI LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BRUSSE 01059 250530Z

SPEAKS OUT FREELY," WAS FOLLOWED BY A COMMENTARY BY WFTU GENERAL SECRETARY PIERRE GENSOUS. AFTER TAKING BOWS FOR ALLOWING KULAKOWSKI SPACE IN THE WFTU MAGAZINE, GENSOUS HINTED THAT KULAKOWSKI TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE FREEDOM OFFERED HIM TO STRAY INTO "QUESTIONS EXTERNAL TO THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT." HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT KULAKOWSKI'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE WFTU WAS "RESTRICTED" AND "OUTDATED," AND COULD BENEFIT FROM ATTENDANCE AT THE WFTU CONGRESS. HE THEN CHIDED KULAKOWSKI FOR OBJECTING TO THE CONGRESS IN PRAGUE SINCE, AFTER ALL, KULAKOWSKI HAD HIMSELF VISITED THE WFTU HEADQUARTERS IN THAT CITY SEVERAL TIMES. KULAKOWSKI HAS NOW REPLIED IN A PAGE-LONG COMMENTARY OF HIS OWN PUBLISHED IN "FLASH," THE WCL TWICE-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER. FIRST HE PROMISED THAT THE WCL WOULD SOON PREPARE A SPECIAL "ANSWER" TO THE WFTU ARTICLE CRITICIZING THE WCL CONGRESS. HE THEN CONCENTRATED HIS FIRE ON GENSOUS. IT WAS "CONTRARY TO ETHICS," SAID KULAKOWSKI, FOR GENSOUS TO PLACE HIS OWN COMMENTS AFTER THE INTERVIEW TEXT, FOR IN DOING SO GENSOUS WAS NOT EXERCISING A "RIGHT TO REPLY" BUT ENGAGING IN A "POLITICAL MANEUVER." THE FREE EXPRESSION ACCORDED HIM IN THE INTERVIEW, SAID KULAKOWSKI, WAS A FREEDOM "UNFORTUNATELY...UNDER THE

SURVEILLANCE OF PIERRE GENSOUS."

6. IN AUTHORIZING HIM TO BE INTERVIEWED BY A WFTU REPORTER, THE WCL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAD HOPED "TO MAKE A GESTURE LIKELY TO BEGIN A DIALOGUE," KULAKOWSKI WROTE. BUT "I FEAR PIERRE GENSOUS' COMMENTARY MAKES THE WFTU LOSE AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROVE THAT WE ARE WRONG TO CONSIDER THAT IT IS NOT YET A PARTNER FOR THE RENOVATION OF WORLD TRADE UNIONISM."

7. FULL TEXT OF ARTICLES QUOTED HEREIN BEING POUCHED TO STATE (S/IL: GOOD AND EUR: GOOTT) AND LABOR DEPARTMENT (ILAB:HOLMES).

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 BRUSSE 01059 250530Z

8. COMMENT: IT REMAINS UNCLEAR WHETHER THE WCL WILL SEND ANYONE TO THE WFTU CONGRESS, BUT IF IT DOES, IT PROBABLY WILL NOT BE KULAKOWSKI, SINCE THE WFTU DID NOT SEND GENSOUS HIMSELF TO THE WCL SESSION LAST OCTOBER HINTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, MEETINGS, RELATIONS WITH REGIONAL ORGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRUSSE01059
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780041-0443
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS USEEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780152/aaaabrdi.tel
Line Count: 141
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 90b9cfe2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SIL
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BRUSSELS 789
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3757855
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WFTU AND WCL EXCHANGE CRITICISMS
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, WCL, WFTU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/90b9cfe2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014